

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office action mailed December 15, 2006. Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application, with Claims 1 and 10 being the independent claims. Claims 1-9 were previously withdrawn and are now cancelled. Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 13; accordingly, claim 13 has been cancelled. New claims 20-23 have been added. The Applicants thank the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in claims 11-13, 16, 17, and 19. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objects to the specification alleging that paragraph [0010] should be amended from "FIG. 2" to --FIG. 1 -- and that paragraph [0022] should read --combustion module 106 -- instead of "exhaust module". The Applicants have amended the specification to incorporate the Examiner's suggested amendments. Accordingly, the Applicants request withdrawal of these objections.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 10, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 3, 872,565 to Ritz et al. ("Ritz"), and claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Ritz.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 13. Accordingly, claim 10 and the claims that depend therefrom (e.g. claims 11, 12, 14-19) should now be allowable as well, and the Applicants request withdrawal of these rejections.

Support for Claim Amendments

As noted above, claim 10 has been amended. Support for the amendment appears at least in originally filed claim 13, paragraph [0024], and FIG. 2B.

New Claims 20-23

New Claims 20-23 have been added. Independent claim 20 incorporates the allowable subject matter of original claim 11 into original claim 10. Claim 21, which depends from claim 20, recites the subject matter of original claim 12. Claim 22 incorporates the allowable subject matter of original claim 16 and the subject matter of claim 15 (from which original claim 16 depends) into original 10 claim. Claim 23, which depends from claim 22, recites the subject matter of original claim 17. Support for these new claims appears at least in originally filed claims 10-12, 16, and 17, paragraphs [0026] and [0027], and FIGs. 2A-2C. Because new claims 20-23 include allowable subject matter, the Applicants submit that these new claims should be allowable as well.

Conclusion

Based on the above, independent claims 10, 20 and 22 are patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims are also deemed patentable for the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims and because each recite features which are patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

It is also understood that the other art of record does not disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

Hence, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 23, 2007

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